



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC - 6 2007

Dr. M. Granger Morgan
Chair, Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Dr. Morgan:

Thank you very much for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board's October 17, 2007, report titled "Advice to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Advancing the Science and Application of Ecological Risk Assessment in Environmental Decision-Making" (EPA-SAB-08-002). The Agency greatly appreciates the efforts of the SAB Ecological Process and Effects Committee in holding a public workshop and developing its advisory report regarding ways to advance the science and application of ecological risk assessment in environmental decision-making.

The SAB has provided many thoughtful recommendations for the Agency to consider regarding the further integration of ecological risk assessment in EPA environmental management decisions. These recommendations cut across several important Agency programs including the Offices of Research and Development; Water; Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances; and Solid Waste and Emergency Response; and the Regions.

The Agency is conducting some of the ecological risk research recommended in your report, and many of the offices have or are in the process of updating their ecological risk assessment guidelines for application in environmental decision-making. Some of the SAB's recommendations will assist the Agency in evaluating the effectiveness of its current approaches.

The EPA Office of the Science Advisor routinely works with science and science policy issues that cut across Agency programs. Accordingly, I have asked OSA to convene a cross-Agency workgroup to carefully review and evaluate the SAB recommendations.

Again, we appreciate the work of the SAB and its Ecological Processes and Effects Committee and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Johnson".

Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Dr. Virginia Dale, Science Advisory Board